

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked-up version of each amended claim.

1. (Thrice Amended) A method for installing a cushion and an inflator/horn assembly into a cover having a cover cavity therein for the cushion using only a single reciprocatively movable piston, said method comprising the steps of:
- attaching the cushion to a spacer which is receivable within the cover cavity and which is fixedly positioned relative to an end of the piston;
- securing the cover in a preferred orientation at one end of a tubular housing;
- compacting the cushion into the cover cavity and around the spacer to define a sleeve cavity for the inflator/horn assembly by cycling the piston through one reciprocating movement cycle within the tubular housing; and
- removing the spacer from said cushion, thereby exposing the sleeve cavity within the compacted cushion for the inflator/horn assembly.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of inserting a retaining ring into a cushion such that said step of attaching the cushion to the spacer is further defined by attaching said retaining ring to the spacer.

5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the tubular housing is movable between an open position and a closed position relative to the base, wherein said step of securing the cushion to the spacer is further defined by securing the spacer to the

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4 piston and further including the steps of raising the piston within the tubular housing toward
5 the upper platform, lowering the lower platform of the housing onto the base to secure the
6 cover, and driving the piston within the housing to compact the cushion into the cover
7 cavity of the cover.

8. (Twice Amended) An assembly as in claim 5, wherein the spacer includes
an outer periphery shaped to form the sleeve cavity within the cushion.

9. (Twice Amended) An assembly as in claim 5, wherein said cushion further
includes a retaining ring to attach said cushion to said spacer.

11. (Thrice Amended) A method for installing a cushion into an interior cavity of
a cover using one reciprocatively movable piston having a fixed spacer, said method
comprising the steps of;
forming a cushion subassembly and attaching same to the piston, the
subassembly including a cushion housing and the cushion;
positioning the cover apart from the piston;
moving the piston and the attached cushion assembly along a fixed tube in a
first direction away from the cover to cause the cushion to expand as it rubs against the
inner sides of the tube;
moving the piston toward the cover to press the cushion and fixed spacer
into the cover, thereby folding same and positioning the housing atop the now folded
cushion within the interior of the cover.

14. (Twice Amended) The assembly as defined in Claim 6 wherein the spacer

is a mock inflator movable with the piston and locatable within a determinable volume

within the cover cavity to prevent the air bag from being folded within this volume.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for installing a cushion into a cavity of a cover

using only one reciprocatively movable piston, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a hollow folding tube;

b) placing the piston near a determinable location in the folding tube;

c) attaching an air bag to an air bag housing sized to fit into the cover cavity;

d) securing the air bag housing to the piston;

e) withdrawing the piston up the folding tube to at least partially elongate the air

bag;

f) positioning the cover proximate an open end of the folding tube with the

cover cavity facing the open end; and

g) urging the piston, housing and air bag toward and into the cover cavity until

the air bag fills the cover cavity and the housing is placed on the cover.

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